



All Things ACT/SAT

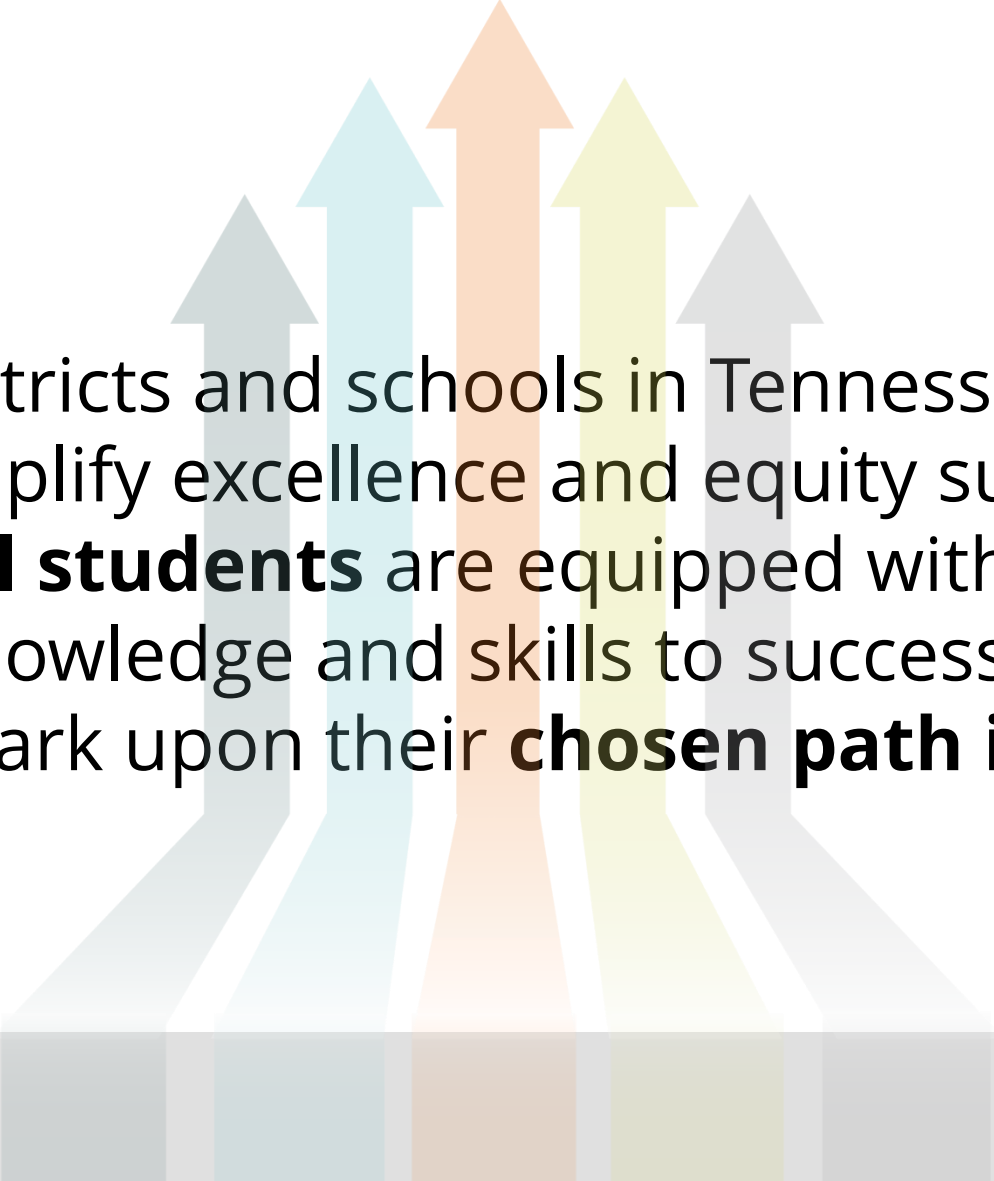
Webinar

Jerre Maynor | Director of Student Readiness | Sept. 7, 2016

Agenda

- I. Our Vision of Success for Tennessee Students
- II. Highlights of 2016 ACT Results
- III. Updates on the *ACT Senior Retake Opportunity*
- IV. High School Graduation Policy Updates for ACT/SAT
- V. Accountability and the ACT/SAT
- VI. Practices for Preparing for the ACT/SAT

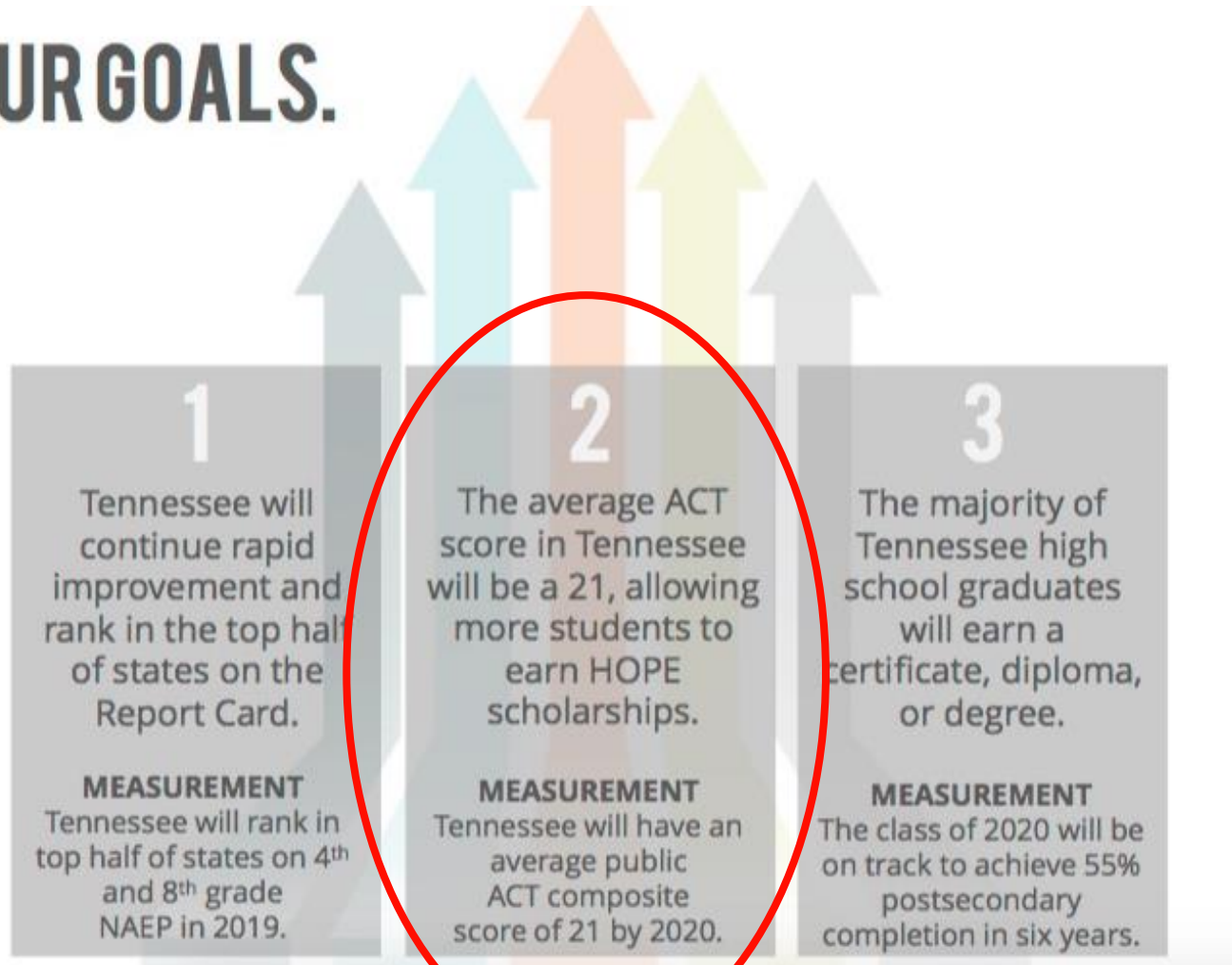
Our Vision for Tennessee Students



“Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that **all students** are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark upon their **chosen path in life.**”

Strategic Goals

OUR GOALS.



Readiness for All Students

Tenn. study: Half of all jobs could be replaced by automation



MICHAEL PATRICK/NEWS SENTINEL Matthew Nauman (cq), right, and Brad Wieger, center, work on an assignment in the Tennessee College of Applied Technology's advanced mechatronics manufacturing maintenance class Thursday, Mar. 17, 2016. Instructor Mike Gallimore gives training that specifically matches students with the kinds of jobs available in the area.

By Chambers Williams of the Knoxville News Sentinel

A gloomy report on the future job market in Tennessee, released this past week by the state, suggests that up 1.4 million people, or half of all current workers, are

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- Half of current Tennessee workers are susceptible to losing their jobs to automation.
- Automation doesn't eliminate the need for labor; **it changes the required education.**
- Rural counties are more vulnerable.
- Postsecondary credentialing is key to reducing vulnerability.
- **Raising expectations for educational attainment is necessary for the long-term success of our local economies.**

Readiness for All Students

In order for jobs to remain in Tennessee, significantly more students need to be ready for postsecondary and career following high school graduation. This involves addressing three critical factors:

- Increase students who enroll in and **complete postsecondary**.
- **Decrease** students requiring **remediation** by identifying and addressing their deficiencies while still in K-12.
- Ensure students who are entering the workforce directly from high school are **prepared** to move out of entry-level jobs quickly and on to **advanced training** in order to earn a sustainable wage.

The ACT – Why it matters

Subject Test	What it Measures	Why it's Important
English	Use the conventions of language, organize ideas, and chose words and sentence elements to develop a given topic	Two-thirds of salaried workers have jobs that require extensive writing. <i>Report of the National Commission on Writing</i>
Reading	Use and comprehend complex text	Regardless whether a student aspires to postsecondary education, a job, the military, or just to be an informed citizen, the reading ability required is likely to be higher than what is typically required in high school. <i>"Student Readiness," Williamson, 2004</i>
Science	Reasoning: Ability to find information, interpret data, and synthesize different viewpoints	Student's ability to quickly locate and synthesize information is typical of problem solving required in postsecondary and the workforce.
Math	Use basic numerical computation and problem solving skills	Employers typically request students with basic numeracy skills that can be quickly applied in context.

The logo for Tennessee State University, featuring the letters "TN" in white serif font on a red square background.

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ACT Data for the Graduating Class of 2016

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2016 ACT Results – Data Notes

- These data represent students in the **graduating class** of 2016.
- These data represent the **most recent score** for this class; our state accountability report will represent each student's *highest* score (if the student tested more than once).
- For larger context, when comparing TN averages to national averages, note that **64% of students in the 2016 US graduating class** took the ACT.
- When we refer to average scores, we are always referring to data for **public students only**.

2016 ACT Results - Statewide

- Over the last 5 years, Tennessee has consistently **increased** the percent of students **meeting all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks**.
- Since 2012, **the number of students who take the ACT** in TN has grown even as the average ACT Composite score has **increased** from **19.2** to **19.4**.
- In 2016, Tennessee public student scores either increased slightly or remained constant in each subject test.
- In 2016, **1,300 additional students scored 21 or higher**, meeting an important threshold for scholarships, financial aid and projected college & career readiness.

2016 ACT Results – District Highlights

- **12 districts** have an average composite score of 21 or above, **45 districts** meet or exceed the state average of 19.4.
- **Union County** scored the highest gains in the state from 2015 to 2016, **raising its average composite by 1.8 points** to 19.2.
- **Three districts** substantially increased the number of students who took the ACT and their composite scores: **Smith County, Houston County**, and the **Achievement School District**.

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**How will we continue to
grow our students'
readiness for the ACT/SAT?**

Our Approach to ACT Growth

All schools must develop a **culture of student readiness**:

- The **behaviors and practices, beliefs, and values** are modeled by all educators supporting the vision that all students will be prepared for their **chosen paths in life**.
- Adults **encourage** and **empower students**, never limit them.
- Preparation for the ACT/SAT is **embedded in the academic culture** of all districts for all students (K-12).



Key Levers to This Approach

Build Culture

- Messaging the “Why”
- Model Schools/Districts
- Postsecondary-going Culture Assessment & Resources
- Promising Practices
- Renewed Focus on School Counseling

Improve Instruction

- ACT Preparation Course
- Educator Professional Development
- Free Test Preparation Resources
- RTI² Intervention & Enrichment
- Standards Connections

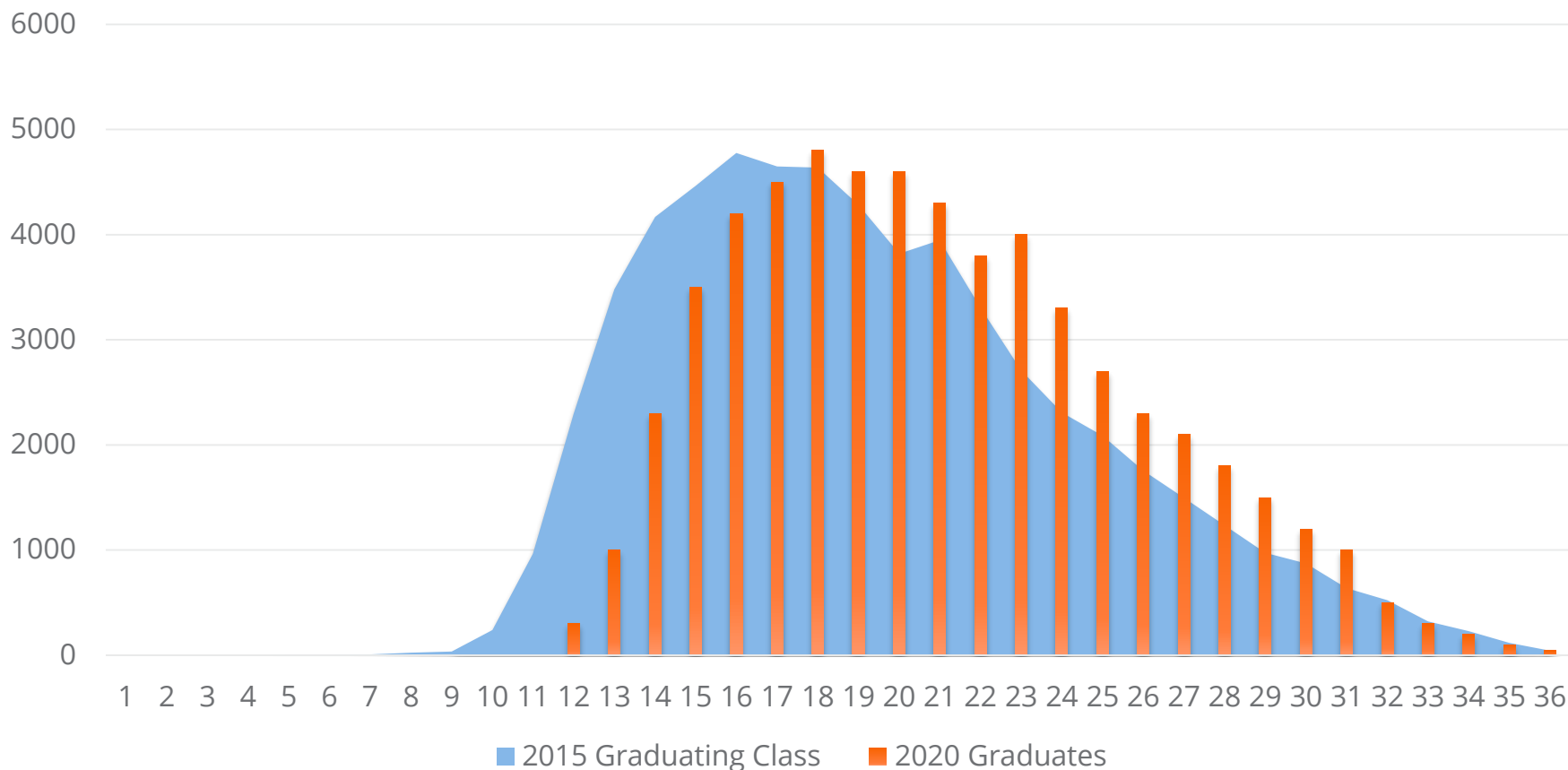
Increase Retakes

- Early Postsecondary Opportunities & Participation
- ED Waivers
- Retake Legislation/Opportunity
- Growth Mindset

Accountability

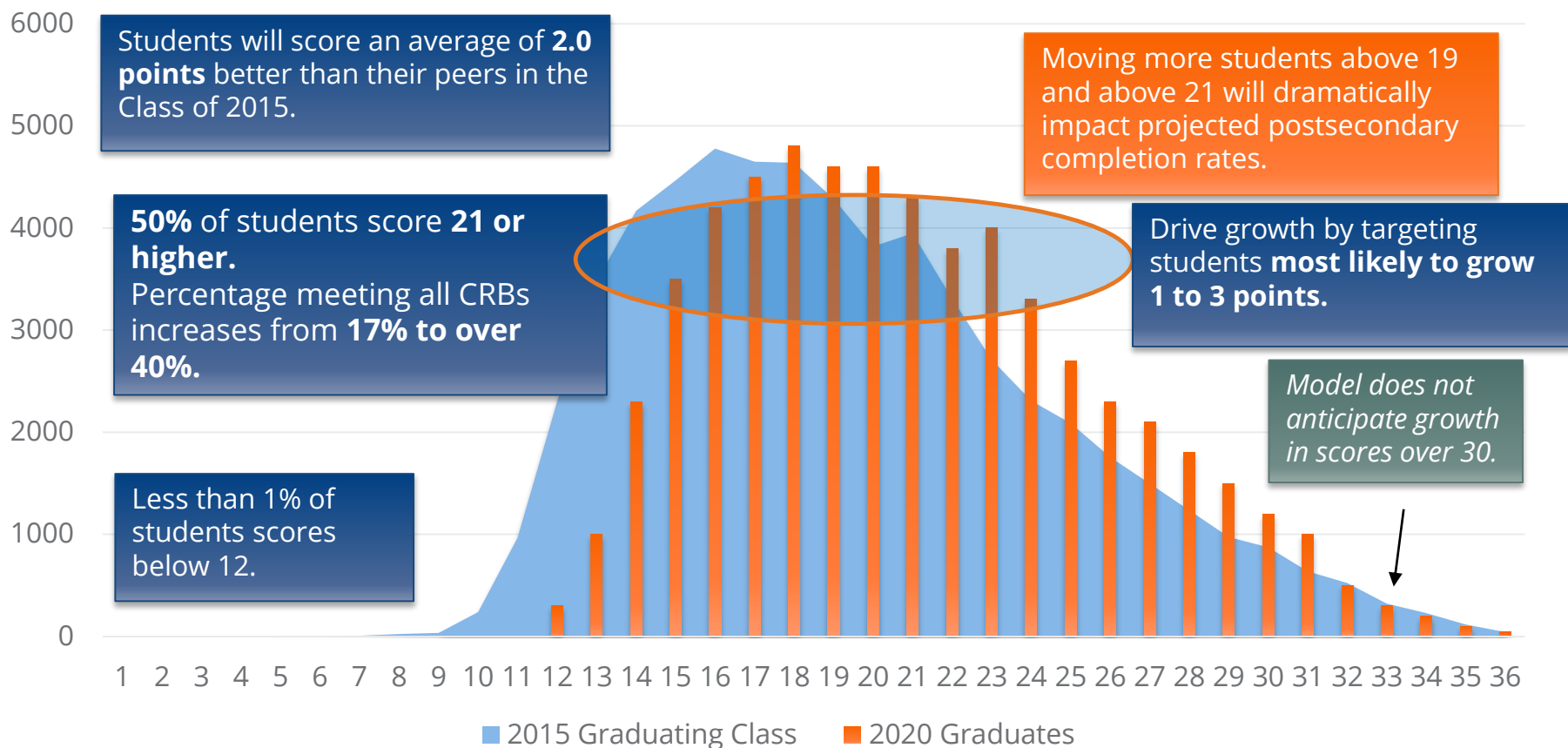
Reaching an ACT Composite of 21 by 2020

Comparative View of 2015 & 2020 Cohorts



Reaching an ACT Composite of 21 by 2020

Comparative View of 2015 & 2020 Cohorts



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ACT/SAT Updates

Updates: ACT Senior Retake Opportunity

- Retake vouchers and fee waivers for qualifying seniors were delivered to districts on Aug. 19.
- The department has daily contact with districts and the ACT, Inc. to address district needs and questions.
- The department has released multiple resources including a sample parent letter, ACT online registration guide, and a summary of Best Practices (all are available on our [website](#)).
- The registration deadline for the October 22 test date is **Friday, Sept. 16!**

Statewide ACT Testing: Dates

There are three school day test dates available for Junior test administration this year. Districts/schools can choose dates that work best for them (initial date and make-up date).

- **March 21**
- **April 19**
- **May 3**
- The Accommodations Window is **April 19-May 3**
 - All students testing with accommodations **must** be tested within this window.

Statewide ACT: Testing Mode Options

- Schools may test on paper or online.
- Online testing must be done April 19-May 3.
- Paper testing must be done on a specific day.
- If a school chooses online testing, then all students in the school must test online within the online window.
- Districts must meet technical specifications set by ACT, Inc.
- Districts may have some schools test on paper and some schools test online.

Statewide ACT: Vouchers

- A state-funded voucher may be issued to a student who misses the in-school state test dates.
- **Seniors** who have not previously taken the ACT may use the state-funded vouchers to register for the December 10, 2016 or June 10, 2017 test dates.
- **Juniors** may use the state-funded vouchers to register for the June 10, 2017 national test date.

Statewide ACT: New Option for Seniors

- Seniors who have not yet taken the ACT may take the exam on the **same day as juniors** for in-school statewide test dates.

OR

- Seniors may be issued state-funded vouchers to test on December 10, 2016 or June 10, 2017.
- **Note:** Seniors who qualify for an ACT fee waiver may use the fee waiver to test on any national test date.

Statewide ACT: District Contract Update

- District contracts are still being prepared by ACT, Inc.
- Districts will be able to request state funded vouchers once the district contracts have been signed.
- District contracts will arrive in time for students to register for the December 10, 2016 test date.

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High School Graduation Policy for ACT/SAT

Update: High School Graduation Policy

- **What is the ACT or SAT graduation requirement in High School Policy 2.103?**
- In order to earn a regular diploma, students enrolled in a Tennessee public school in their junior year of high school must complete the ACT or SAT in order to fulfill the graduation requirement.

NOTE: *ACT or SAT scores are only submitted to postsecondary institutions at the student's discretion. Students can choose to have scores submitted to postsecondary by their school or directly through the ACT or SAT. Schools and the state do not do any automatic reporting to postsecondary.*

Update: High School Graduation Policy

- **Does the graduation requirement apply to a student who has an IEP but will be earning a regular diploma?**
- Yes, in order to earn a regular diploma, students with an IEP must complete the ACT or SAT in order to fulfill the graduation requirement. ACT and SAT have accommodations available for students with IEPs that would result in a college-reportable score.
- **Note:** A student may use state-allowed accommodations for completion of ACT or SAT; however, using state-allowed accommodations may result in a score that is not college-reportable.

Update: High School Graduation Policy

- **Does the ACT or SAT graduation requirement apply to a student who took the SAT or ACT in a different state and transferred to a Tennessee public school after taking the test?**
- Yes. If a student took the ACT or SAT out of state, his/her test completion counts toward the graduation requirement to earn a regular diploma in a Tennessee public school.
- This is only applicable to a student who transfers to a Tennessee school before the end of his/her junior year.
- For a student who transfers to a Tennessee public school in his/her senior year, the graduation requirement does not apply.

Update: High School Graduation Policy

- Does the ACT or SAT graduation requirement apply to a senior who was not enrolled in a Tennessee public school during his/her junior year, such as a student who was previously enrolled out of state, enrolled at a private school, or was homeschooled?
- No. The student must have been enrolled in a Tennessee public school during his/her junior year.
- **Note:** Even if a senior transfers into a Tennessee public school during the senior year, we still encourage schools to support this student in taking the ACT since it is a valuable benchmark of postsecondary and career readiness.

Update: High School Graduation Policy

- **Seniors Who Transfer From Out of State, Private, or Homeschool:** All students who earn a regular diploma and are part of that district's graduating cohort will be included in the calculation of the ACT participation rate, regardless of when the students enrolled in a Tennessee public school.
- So, while a senior may not be required to take the ACT or SAT as a graduation requirement, a graduating senior who chooses not to take the exam will impact the district's participation rate.

Update: High School Graduation Policy

- **What if our graduation ceremony is in May, but a senior will be taking the ACT or SAT for the first time at the June administration?**
- We recommend allowing the student to walk at graduation but holding the diploma until after the student takes the ACT or SAT during the June test administration. However, this is a district decision.

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Accountability and
ACT/SAT

Accountability ACT/SAT

- **Which students must participate in the ACT/SAT for district accountability measures?**
- Participation rate for the ACT will be based on students who graduate with a regular diploma. This includes students with disabilities and English language learners. Students earning special education diplomas or occupational diplomas will not be counted in district accountability measures for ACT or SAT participation and proficiency rates.

Accountability ACT/SAT

- **For district accountability for the 2017-18 school year, what is the participation requirement for the ACT/SAT?**
- For district accountability for 2017-18, it is required that **95%** of the **class of 2017** participate in the ACT/SAT.
- The ACT/SAT participation requirement is based on the percentage of students earning a regular diploma.

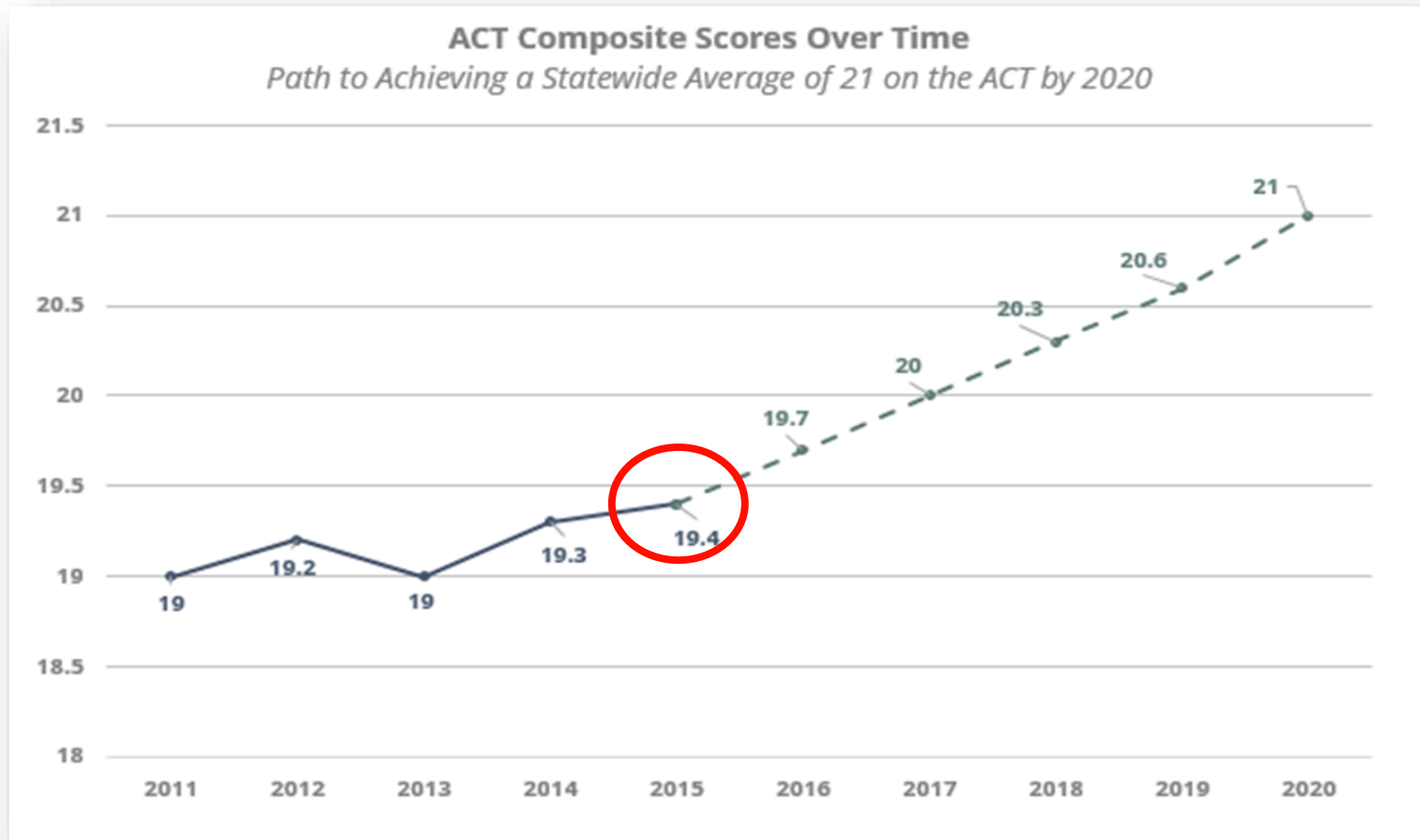
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Why does the ACT/SAT
matter for all students?
How will we continue to
improve scores?

The Path to a 21 Public Composite



The Path to 21: Key Levers of Our Approach

Build Culture

Messaging the “Why”
Model Schools/Districts
Postsecondary-going
Culture Assessment &
Resources
Promising Practices
Renewed Focus on School
Counseling

Improve Instruction

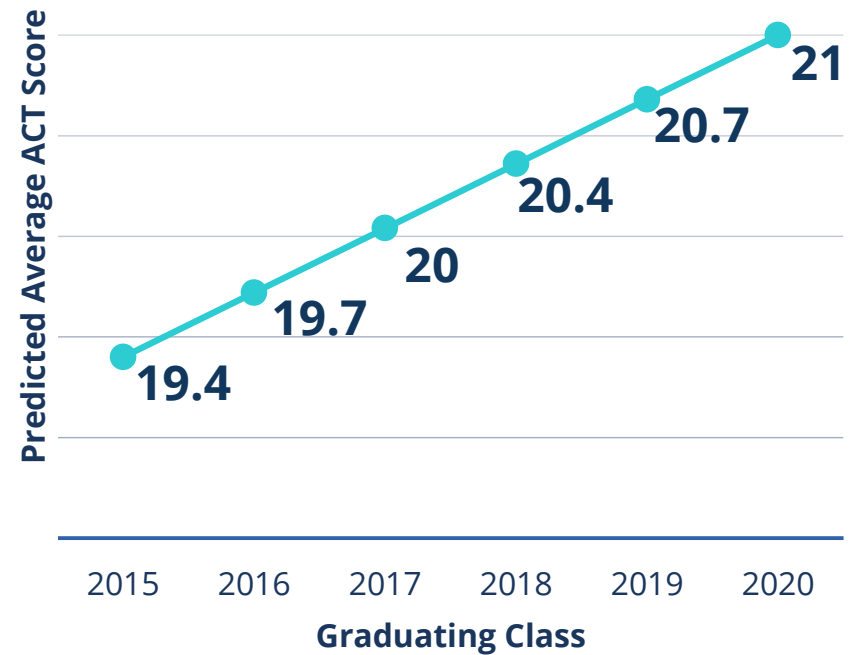
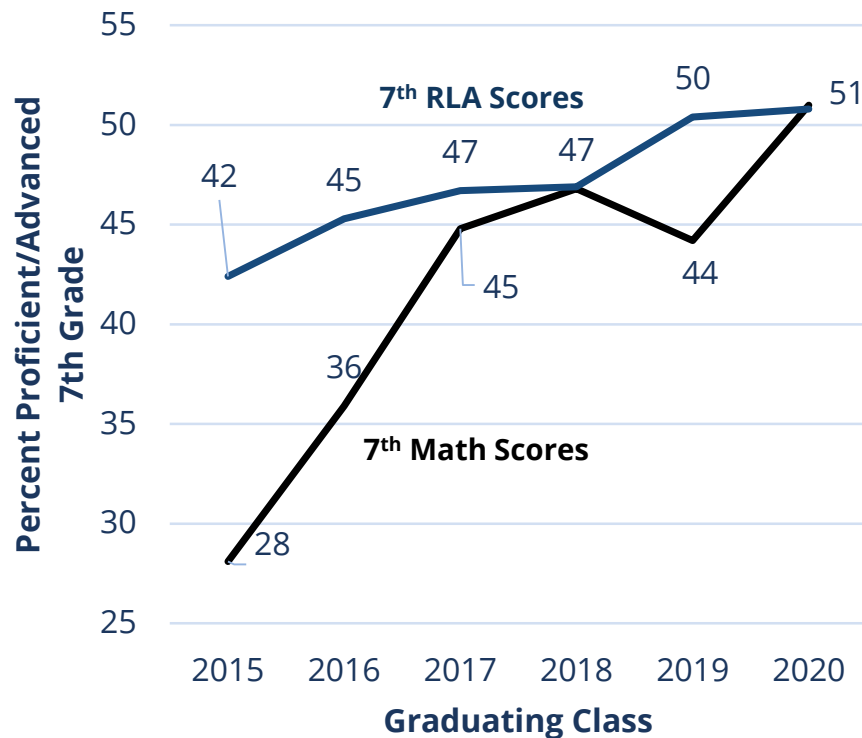
ACT Preparation Course
Educator Professional
Development
Free Test Preparation
Resources
RTI² Intervention &
Enrichment
Standards Connections

Increase Retakes

Early Postsecondary
Opportunities &
Participation
ED Waivers
Retake
Legislation/Opportunity
Growth Mindset

Accountability

The Path to 21: Growth Trends of 2020



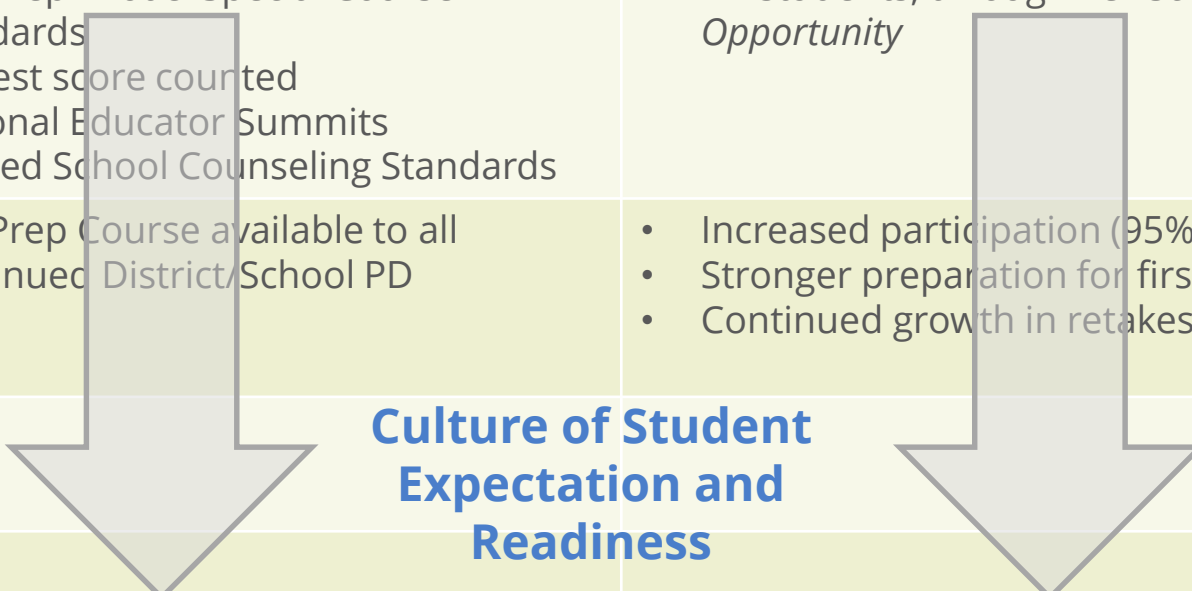
How do we impact each cohort?

Cohort/ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2016	Senior	Junior	Soph.	Frosh.	8th
2017		Senior	Junior	Soph.	Frosh.
2018			Senior	Junior	Soph.
2019				Senior	Junior
2020					Senior
Years to Impact	1	2	3	4	5

⇒ The **Class of 2020** began high school this **year**!

⇒ Our major **opportunity** is to influence their knowledge, skills, actions, and perceptions about why the ACT matters (rather than coursework, literacy levels, or early exposure).

Cohort-Driven Approach (Graduating Class)

COHORT	ACTIONS	POTENTIAL IMPACT
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT-Focused Communications • Content Connections (TN Ready & ACT) • Regional Educator Summit focused on ACT and 6-12 Intervention & Differentiation • Statewide High School RTI² Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small increase in retakes • Small shifts in instructional practice • Increase participation
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTI² Implementation • Accountability • Retake Legislation • ACT Prep Pilot & Special Course Standards • Highest score counted • Regional Educator Summits • Revised School Counseling Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic shifts in instructional practice • Increased participation (95%) • Large increase in retakes, especially for ED students, through <i>ACT Senior Retake Opportunity</i>
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Prep Course available to all • Continued District/School PD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased participation (95%) • Stronger preparation for first take • Continued growth in retakes
2019	 <p>Culture of Student Expectation and Readiness</p>	
2020		

Best Practices – In the News

- **Making the ACT (Retake) an Event:** Polk County uses a combination of messaging, motivating, and test day support to increase the number of students taking the ACT on national test dates. Read the full Classroom Chronicles story [here](#).
- **Keys to Success on the ACT?** Soulsville Charter School in Shelby County was recently highlighted for its success in boosting student scores by **two points** this year. This [article](#) highlights their focus on rigorous instruction aligned to state standards, ACT “Prep” for all juniors, and giving students time to explore what they plan to do after high school.

Contact Information

- For general ACT inquiries, please email ACT.Questions@tn.gov.
- For questions about ACT contracts or logistics, please email Philip.Jacobs@tn.gov.
- For questions about ACT/SAT accountability, please email Evan.Kramer@tn.gov.
- For questions about the ACT Preparation Pilot or school-based strategies, please email Jerre.Maynor@tn.gov.

Resources

- ***ACT Senior Retake Opportunity*** [Implementation Guide](#)
- [Five Best Practices to Support Student ACT Success](#)
- **Frequently Asked Questions:** [SBE High School Policy 2.103](#)



Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.

Excellence | Optimism | Judgment | Courage | Teamwork